

IMPEDIMENTS OF SPEECH.

BROSTERIAN SYSTEM.

PROGRESS
OF
THE BROSTERIAN SYSTEM.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
LIBRARY

CLASS	61
ACCN.	13682
SOURCE	
DATE	

LONDON, 41, *Cadogan Place*, 1827.

MR. BROSTER having resolved, from the earliest period of his practice, not to extol the power or merits of his SYSTEM, by any recommendations or compositions of his own, still adheres to the same principle. He is content to rest his character solely upon actual proofs, — the cures it has effected,—and the written testimonies of his Pupils in its favour. However numerous those who have experienced his method of Instruction, he believes he may be allowed to assert the entire unanimity of their opinions on the power and permanency of his Discovery. He cannot close this brief preface without expressing his feelings of gratitude for the unsolicited manner in

which they have upon every occasion stepped forward to grant him, what they conceived to be his meed of justice for a Discovery of such importance.

The following Extracts from the periodical works of the day, afford the most ample and satisfactory demonstration of the real merits of his System,—such as must, when once perused, convince the most sceptical, and preclude all further necessity for inquiry or explanation. Two of these documents are written by PUPILS, and the third is from the pen of a gentleman, whose learning and talents place him in the first rank of philosophers in this country. It would be impossible to advance, and unnecessary to require, proofs of more undeniable authority,—coming as they do, from those who have experienced, and those who have investigated the effi-

cacy of Mr. Broster's System, to their complete satisfaction.

The other testimonies are from the pens of Pupils, many of them distinguished members of the Universities of England, Scotland or Ireland.

Mr. Broster thinks it necessary only to add, that he discovered his System above *twenty years* ago,—it is well known, practising it gratuitously during that period: for the last four years only, professed it publicly: he never received any instructions from any person whatever: a desire to recover from an imperfect articulation of his own, led him to observations and research on this subject; and the same length of time he took in his study—the same experience of practice, on near three hundred cases, could alone produce the same success and efficiency.

the prevalence of such an opinion, that he appears to have declined making himself known in Edinburgh in any other way than by the cures which he performed. Several cases of a very striking nature soon occurred to show the success of his method.

A person of rank and fashion, whose defective utterance had been generally known from constant intercourse with society, was so completely cured, as to excite the astonishment of every person. The celebrity which Mr. Broster acquired by this cure, brought him a number of pupils, many of whom came even from London, to receive the benefit of his instructions ; and the success with which these cases were treated, far surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the individuals themselves. Persons who had almost lost the power of giving utterance to particular words, were completely emancipated from all embarrassment of speech. Others, who could not articulate without contortions of countenance, and other nervous indications, were enabled to speak with ease and fluency ; and one gentleman, who had scarcely ever ventured to breathe a sound before company, was enabled to make a formal speech before a large party, who had been assembled by his father

to commemorate the almost miraculous cure of his son.

The removal of impediments of speech has always been considered as the work of time and laborious exertion, and those who professed to have studied the subject most deeply, required the constant attendance of their pupils for months, and even for years. Mr. Broster's system, however, is of a very different character. Some of his very striking cures have been performed after a single lesson, and, in general, a few days is all the time that he requires for effecting it. This rapidity of cure, indeed, is one of the most valuable features in his system. The hope of a speedy remedy encourages the patient to apply his whole mind to the system, and enables the poor, and those who cannot quit their professions, to avail themselves of a discovery, which otherwise could have been of no benefit to them.

Hitherto we have considered this new method as applicable only to the ordinary impediments of speech, but we have reason to know that Mr. Broster's method embraces a much wider range. He has applied it to the cure of cases of weak articulation; he has, as it were, given the power of speech to those who were supposed to be labour-

ing under bodily disease, and he actually communicated the power of reading aloud before company, to a venerable philosopher,* whom a paralytic affection had almost deprived of the power of speech.

During our inquiries into the success of Mr. Broster's System, we have had occasion to peruse several of the letters which have been addressed to him by the individuals whom he has cured, and by the parents of those pupils who were unable to express their own gratitude. The respect and affection which these letters breathe, while they show the value which has been set upon the cure, evince also the kindness and gentleness of the treatment by which it has been effected. Mr. Broster's humanity to the poor, and to those whose circumstances do not permit them to prove their gratitude by their liberality, deserves to be especially noticed. We know of cases where he has refused any compensation for his trouble; and we are sure that, in every case where it is necessary, his liberality will be conspicuous. We understand a portrait is published at the request of his pupils, by the principal booksellers in Edinburgh, after a fine painting by Syme.

* Dugald Stewart, Professor, Edinburgh.

As we are not acquainted with the nature of Mr. Broster's System, we cannot give any opinion of it as a scientific method.

This important discovery has hitherto excited little general curiosity. The interest which it has called forth has been chiefly local, and confined to the relatives and friends of the persons whom it has benefited; but, as Mr. Broster's pupils increase in number—as the remarkable cures which he performs become better known, it cannot fail to excite that notice which it so justly merits; and if its success shall continue to be as great as it has hitherto been, we have no doubt that the legislature itself will rank Mr. Broster among those public benefactors whose services entitle them to a public remuneration.

No. II.

[*From the Dumfries Journal.*]

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—We recently received information, from unquestionable authority, that there is now in Edinburgh a gentleman, of high respectability, who has discovered a complete cure for that distressing malady, with which many are more or less afflicted, *a stuttering or stammering*

in their speech, and whose utterance is not only painful to themselves, but distressing to their auditors. Among numerous others, we are enabled from authority to mention two very recent instances. A personage of the highest rank and quality in Scotland, who from infancy laboured under this distressing complaint, having heard of this gentleman, applied to him; in a short time he effected the promised cure, and since that period, now some months, speaks without the smallest impediment. The second instance is that of a gentleman of the first connections and respectability, and a partner in one of the banking houses in London, who, having also from infancy laboured under the same affliction, on receiving information of the cures effected in Edinburgh, came there in November last. The gentlemen were introduced to each other, and dined in the house of a friend with a large party, all of whom, commiserating the distress and difficulty of utterance of the London gentleman, were of opinion that his deficiency was incurable. The gentleman and his preceptor had a meeting on the forenoon of the following Monday, and in a few hours the friend of the former received a note stating, that he was COMPLETELY CURED. A gentleman of this town, one of those

who concurred in the opinion of the company that any cure was hopeless, read the note communicating his perfect recovery on the Monday: on Thursday following, he was an hour in the stranger's company, and during the whole of the conversation he could not perceive the smallest deficiency or embarrassment of utterance. As the facts which we have stated are beyond doubt authentic, we must add, that the gentleman who made the discovery, and performs such cures, is alike entitled to liberality in professional remuneration, and to the thanks of society at large.

No. III.

BROSTER'S SYSTEM FOR THE CURE OF IMPEDIMENTS IN
SPEECH. BY A PUPIL.

[*From the London Magazine for August, 1825.*]

St. James's, June 13, 1825.

MR. EDITOR,—Having been requested a few weeks ago, through the medium of a friend, to give in a letter my opinion on the merits of the Brosterian Discovery, it occurred to me that a general sketch of the System, as far as is *allowable*, being made public, might be of public benefit. That letter is not so easily recoverable as another

is written. If you approve of this, perhaps you will allow me to give it a local habitation and a name in your Magazine. I acknowledge that I do feel such a sketch to be my duty towards the public in general, and towards Mr. Broster in particular; you perhaps divide this feeling with me, and will therefore permit me to gratify it. Taking your philanthropy for granted, I submit the following document for insertion:—

Mr. Broster's System for the cure of Impediments may certainly be named the chief discovery of the present day; at least if we are to measure that by the sensation created. Supposing it what it professes to be, it is second only to that of Jenner's in this age; and in the department to which both belong,—the cure of visible infirmity; inasmuch as the want of speech may by some be deemed a yet more lamentable defect than the want of sight, it will appear to them even of superior importance. But the merits of this System are, I believe, generally misunderstood, and its claims to public favour generally misestimated. It shall be my endeavour to explain the one, and adjust the other. No one can do both, but a Pupil. He can, if he has sincerity and ability. I have given you references sufficient, I believe,

to satisfy you (and through you, the public) with respect to my sincerity; with respect to my ability, you (and the public also) must be content with a slenderer security. These premises were necessary. Now to the purpose.

As far as I have learned of other systems by inquiry, and as far as I know of this by experience, I conceive it to be the very best which the human imagination ever devised to attain its purpose. But it is no *Miracle*. It is generally effective, but it is not always *perfective*. It is powerful, but not almighty; a partial remedy certainly, a total one possibly,—a nearly perfect one, probably. In a word, it is only a potent remedy, not an *infallible* one. This is my opinion, founded on my experience; it may either exceed that of the public, or fall short of that of the Inventor,—both of which are about equally distant from my wish to flatter or follow. It is no great vanity to suspect that readers will generally prefer mine to that which must be the result of ignorance in the first case, and may be the effect of prejudice in the latter. I am *myself* a living instance of what I assert; of the potency of the System, and its fallibility.

It is not always perfective, nor omnipotent, nor

infallible,— for *I*, I repeat, am yet uncured, who have tried it. But it is generally effective, and powerful, and at least a probable remedy,—for all have been, in a great measure or a less, relieved, who have to my knowledge tried it. Several pupils have been *perfectly* cured; some but partially. Explicitness is the life of information:— Of twelve cases which fell under my own observation whilst at Mr. Broster's house (including myself), it may be said that *three* are nearly as eloquent now as their friends, and three nearly as tongue-tied as their enemies could wish them. The remaining six (of which I am one) are all partially or considerably relieved, both species of relief being in different degrees. To this account it is but fair to add, that those uncured would be at least partially cured; and those partially cured would be almost perfectly cured, if they had continued to put Mr. Broster's system of speaking in force, as they might and should. But in some cases it is difficult, and in others disagreeable to put this system in force, *which* makes the fallibility of the system,—and in this view alone it is fallible. But how can a system be considered infallible, when the difficulty or disagreeability (in some cases) of putting it in force, disempowers the pupil

from using it? Suppose it were the secret of the system, that the pupil should stand with his arm extended at right angles to his body whilst he was speaking, and that this whilst acted on was infallible,—would the system yet be infallible? Certainly not; for no man could always speak in the attitude required, nor would he for any length of duration. Or if the system be in theory infallible, it is in fact useless, *i. e.*, as far as it is impracticable. Suppose, to take another instance of a system infallible in theory and fallible in practice, suppose a certain given act requiring presence of mind were to be performed on every occasion of speaking, in order to facilitate speech; suppose the secret of the system to be of this kind, and suppose from the natural impetuosity, irresolution, or forgetfulness of the pupil's disposition, he is unable to collect that presence of mind which is imperative for the success of the system,—can the system in his case be considered infallible? Assuredly not; for though it would, if put into act, vanquish the *visible* part of the pupil's malady, still it does not vanquish the invisible part, *videlicet*, the pupil's *disposition*, it does not ensure that act, and therefore does not cure that pupil—*id est*, it is not infallible. Now there is some-

thing, I do not say of what kind, in Mr. Broster's system, which, in certain cases, is required for its success, and which in these cases is not always practicable by the pupil, though when he can practise it, it is remedial. Thus much it is incumbent on me to assert; great as is my admiration of the System, I cannot allow it to be infallible, and think—*know* it to be my duty so to declare to the public. That the non-infallibility of the System be generally and distinctly understood is of use perhaps to both parties; it will prevent over-sanguine expectation, disappointment, &c., and likewise divest Mr. Broster's discovery of that air of imposture and quackery which always accompanies the promulgation of an infallible nostrum or a miraculous remedy.

The next great point of the System to its power, is its permanence. As to this, no one I think but a perfect fool could forget the System, and the sooner *he* forgets it the better. We have plenty of fluent folly already in the world, without setting other founts a-flow. Men with no other faculty besides memory, and of that but a scanty endowment, must remember the System; and its good effects will be exactly as permanent as its practice.

There is nothing further to be said upon this point.

From the consideration of its permanent effects, the mind naturally flows to the *progressive* effects of the System. These, I am happy to testify, are not merely proportional to the time and quantity of the practice, but in a ratio vastly transcendant. In one week's labour, you reap one week's fruit ; in two, you seem to reap four ; in three, twelve ; and so on. The difficulty, disagreeability, and necessity of practising the System, continually diminish.* My own experience is my best evidence : for the first fortnight after my return from Mr. Broster's, I was but little better than before ; in the next I was " a new man ;" and now I often speak without any difficulty, seldom with much. The nature of my disposition is very inimical to the System ; if I did or could perpetually speak in it, I should speak as perpetually well. Even under this unfavourable circumstance, I feel perfectly confident that the difficulty and disagreeability of speaking in the System will, in my case, wear themselves out, and that I shall ultimately be able

* Of course there are advances and recessions (always owing to accident or neglect, however) ; but the average improvement is progressively steady.

to speak as fast and as fluently as I can scribble ; more than sufficient for my hearer's satisfaction, perhaps, but at least quite enough for my own.

The last material point in the System is, the difficulty of acquiring its secret, the time and labour of acquiring its practice. To prevent this " Discovery" from becoming a *longitude* or *trisection* problem with my readers ; to prevent country parsons and village schoolmasters beginning with an El Dorado upon its foundation, and ending with a madhouse ; in short, to prevent any one puzzling his wits to no purpose or a bad one, this is sufficient : the secret of the System is not *one*, but multifold. It is no charm, nor panacea, neither a black ribbon round the throat, nor a bunch of " holy vervain" for the breast ; neither Balm of Gilead, Tar-water, nor the " Universal Restorative," a potion, nor an operation. Neither Satan nor St. David are at the bottom of it ; but Nature herself. By a long devotion to her service, and a close examination of her secrets, in plain English, by long experience and native sagacity, this System was discovered. It has no other basis but Nature ; and until some other person investigates her as long and laboriously, as sagaciously and successfully, its present discoverer

will probably be its only one. The secret, I say, is multifold ; it is made up of many secrets, all of different, many of opposite effects. From this it follows that to different cases, different secrets are applicable ; to some, opposite ones. Yet it frequently happens that secrets of exactly opposite effects are to be applied to the *same* case, only at different stages. The simplicity, and at the same time, intricacy of the System, are not its least remarkable features. Easy to be comprehended in its parts, but as a whole hardly to be compassed. Even if the secrets one and all stood rubric, even if they were published, known, and understood, they could be made but little use of: the *grand* secret is,—how, when, and to whom to apply them. *My* knowledge of the Brosterian System, intimate as it is with one part of it, and general as it is with all, would scarcely enable me to cure a parrot if it spoke with an impediment,—unless, indeed, it happened to speak as I do myself. But, complicated as it is as a whole, no pupil can have any difficulty in understanding his part of it, at least if he can understand his prayers. As to the time and labour of acquiring its practice, these are with some the work of a moment ; with no one who is willing, more than a few days.

This last point may be also put in the form of the following question. — How long a time is necessary for such instruction in the System as will render it permanently effective? To this I answer, that of course the difficulty not only of acquiring, but of *persevering* in the practice, will depend on the disposition of the pupil and the nature of his case; some find none after the first moment, hour, day, week, &c. ; *I* find considerable still; and others may find it for ever. But the time necessary for instruction generally falls short of two months, and is, I believe, mostly about one. Such at least was the case whilst I was at Mr. Broster's. Some have found a week quite sufficient; some a day.

I do not know that I have any thing further to add to the above sketch, but—that I never heard any pupil of this System, cured or uncured, regret the expense of it. For my own part, with the knowledge that I now have of the System, were it to be tried again, I would try it.

I am, Sir, &c.

G. D.

Since writing the above, a continued perseverance in Mr. Broster's System enables me to repeat

my conviction of its efficacy—on the very best grounds, further experience and further improvement in my power of speaking. The difficulty I complained of has almost wholly vanished ; and it is the good-nature of my friends alone, which at times reminds me that I had once a very disagreeable impediment.

G. D.

December 19th, 1825.

No. IV.

[*From Blackwood's Magazine, Dec. 1825.*]

THE writer of these observations, before he became Mr. Broster's pupil, had been under the care of several gentlemen who professed to cure impediments of speech. These all failed in their attempts, because they were ignorant whence the impediment proceeded. But Mr. Broster discovers, with almost intuitive acuteness, the particular cause of his pupil's impediment ; and this, it will be owned, is a very necessary step towards removing it. To proceed in the first person—When I first became acquainted with the most prominent feature of Mr. B.'s System, I was much disappointed in it—I mistook it for a *simple elocutionary* process. But, in fact, this prominent feature is only *simple* in principle ; if rightly and

pertinaciously adhered to, it is in practice omnipotent. Moreover it owes nothing to *elocution*; but is a PERFECTLY ORIGINAL DISCOVERY. Nay, so far from being at all indebted to elocution, the good orator *must be in possession of Mr. B.'s System*; either unconsciously practising it, when it is bestowed on him by nature; or, consciously, having acquired it from Mr. Broster. Persons who say they have weak lungs—who are unable to fill such a church—or make themselves audible in such a court of justice—will, after having attended Mr. B., be able to speak for many hours together, without feeling any particular fatigue. I am aware that Mr. B. has already instructed several clergymen with great success :* but I hope soon to hear,

* “ I certainly derived and still continue to derive the most essential benefit from Mr. Broster's instructions, and have reason to be most thankful to him that such is the case. I have a very ailing constitution, and was for several years subject to a pain in the chest. I never had spitting of blood, but I cannot doubt that whatever may be the affection of the chest, or indeed where there is no such affection, but only general weakness of the system, Mr. Broster's directions may be of the greatest use; as the object of them is, and that object seems almost always attainable, to render the voice more effective, and at the same time to make much less exertion sufficient. The church in which I officiate will contain sixteen hundred persons, and of course requiring great exertions. I used to be so ill and wearied after the day's service, that I could scarcely eat any thing; my chest was so painful that it destroyed my rest at night, and my mind was exceedingly harassed, by what I feared was the case, and I have since

that he makes it a part of his profession to enable men, intended for the church and law, to speak impressively and audibly, for a great length of time with comparatively little exertion. I am here only offering a few remarks on the Brosterian System, for a fuller account of which, I refer the reader to Blackwood's Magazine for January, 1825, and to the London Magazine and Review for August, 1825, No. 8. Art. 5. But let me add, that Mr. B.'s System is often highly conducive to the pupil's health. In many cases, the person troubled with defective utterance is continually impairing his constitution, by using other energies for the production of sound, than those furnished him for that purpose—other energies, which, having also their own individual functions to perform, are seriously injured by this increase of employment. But Mr. Broster, by causing the organs of speech to undertake their own duty, relieves those parts of the frame which have been wearied and agitated by unnatural exertion, and prevents the further progress of an evil which has

learned really was, namely, that I was not heard. I am now, I believe, very well heard, and go through the duty with satisfaction and without much exhaustion.—August, 1824. H. M."

Mr. Broster has permission to give reference to several others persons who have been cured in this department of his System.

been to the pupil a consuming canker in the bud of life.

Lastly, speaking of Mr. Broster's System, I affirm, that such as are afflicted with considerable impediment and distortion of countenance, will be immediately relieved by it—all who are endued with some perseverance, will derive much benefit from it—those who can wrestle vigorously against an old, and firmly adopt a new, habit, will be effectually cured by it. Reader, if you have a relation—a friend—the victim of an impediment in speech—who shrinks from observation—who dreads to hear the sound of his own voice—and if in his welfare you are interested, recommend him to try the efficacy of Mr. Broster's System.

E. D.

Cambridge, October 19th, 1825.

*EXTRACTS from the Letters of Correspondents, and
Certificates of the Efficacious Power of the SYSTEM
from various Pupils, whose Names and Addresses are,
through motives of delicacy, omitted but by each of
whom Permission of reference, has been spontaneously
granted.*

No. I.

Kircaldy, 10th July, 1824.

JOHN BROSTER, ESQ.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday by the young man who has been for the last eight days under your direction. I notice with great satisfaction the cure which you have effected over a most inveterate impediment in his speech. The contortions of countenance, and other nervous indications into which he was often thrown in his endeavours to give utterance to his words, were evidently most painful to himself, and nearly as much so to those who witnessed them. He has returned full of gratitude to you, and speaks in the highest terms of the politeness with which he was received both by Dr. Abercrombie and Mr. Blackwood, to whom you had previously referred him for information. He has the utmost

confidence in the permanent nature of his cure, and seems to think he would have great difficulty in returning to his former mode of speaking, were he to attempt it ; and even were he to relapse into it, he possesses within himself, from your instructions, *the remedy*, as he informs me.

I beg leave to say for myself, that I feel very much gratified in having taken an interest in the matter, and I trust you will excuse the caution I made use of, in my former correspondence, to guard against quackery : and, therefore, I have now the greater pleasure in giving my testimony to the merit of your System, and my belief, that it is founded “ on the basis of common sense and judicious practice,” in which the magic wand has no part, however much it may resemble it in effect. That you may long live to give relief to those who require your assistance, and enjoy well merited fame, with the more substantial blessings which this world affords, is the very sincere wish of one who will always be happy to be referred to, and who subscribes himself with esteem,

Your obliged and obedient humble Servant,

JAMES AYTOUN.

P.S.—You are at liberty to make use of the foregoing in any manner of way you please.

No. II.

I promised to let you know of myself when I got home. On Saturday my father had a day, I mean a dinner in honour of you and congratulating me upon the unloosing of my tongue. After dinner one of the gentlemen stood up and mentioned the cause of the meeting, and gave my name as a toast; I rose and spoke as follows in my “Brosteric tongue:”

“GENTLEMEN,—As it is usual on such occasions, I rise to return you my best thanks for the manner in which you have received the toast that has now been drank, and however hackneyed the phrase of ‘grateful for the honour, &c.’ believe me I shall ever recall the occasion which has brought us together, and the somewhat *new* part I am called upon to act, as one of the happiest occurrences in my life. I call the part which I have to act *new*, because, my friends, had I a few months ago been called upon as I have been now, I must have stood before you the mere ‘emblem of silence;’ in such a case I must have trusted to your supposing that the depth and extent of my gratitude had completely locked my organs of speech. From this miserable plight I have how-

ever been saved ; and I assure you I could not have used the gift which has been conferred upon me, with greater pleasure than in welcoming the friends whom I now eye around me with delight—to pour out—to take part—and to mingle the pathos of their hearts with mine, to the restorer of my speech. By you, gentlemen, 'my feelings cannot be understood ; but if you can for a moment conceive a helpless being, shut up from childhood in the ' blackness of darkness,' when he at the same time was a witness to the light which others enjoyed—conceive such a one, I say, relieved at last from his dreadful situation, and ushered into the ' glorious light of day,'—then you may have some idea of my feelings when released from the bondage of silence, and by the unloosing of my tongue, stamped a speaking member of society.

“ Gifts however may be abused as well as used, and lest you should think, that like a spoiled child with its rattle I may be inclined to make too much noise, I shall conclude by proposing my ever dear and never-to-be-forgotten friend ' Mr. Broster, and the Fluency of Speech.'

ALEX. BOSWELL.”

Leven, Fifeshire.

No. III.

Arbroath, Scotland, July 31st.

All friends and acquaintances were much astonished to find me speaking so differently from what I used to do, very few knowing why I had gone to Edinburgh, until my return; I have not attempted to stop or stumble in the least, but speak with the greatest ease. My father and mother are particularly gratified with the effect of my Edinburgh visit; they join in returning you sincere thanks for your great attention, which I shall never forget, as I am so much benefited in the course of my business by the removal of my late impediment. October 13th.—I wrote to you on my arrival at home, which I doubt not you received. In regard to my speech, I speak with fluency, and have not made a single stammer, but have quite the command in every way.

No. IV.

Berkshire, September 4th.

“Fluency of Speech,” your old but welcome toast, still maintains its happy effects upon me; my poor tongue, like a ship at anchor, has lain for

these last seventeen years fearing to move, lest the ever-impending plague should stop its course.

We have had a large party here, they were quite surprized to hear me speak so fluently. Colonel ——— intends to inform ——— of my cure, that he may reap the benefit of your almost miraculous instructions. December 18th.--With regard to myself, I feel perfectly well, even better than when I wrote to you last.

No. V.

Princes Street, Edinburgh.

My case, before I attended Mr. Broster, was so bad, that, on two occasions in school, I could not possibly proceed; I came to him on the first of September, and was cured the next day: from that time to this, I have found the salutary effect of his instructions, which, from my own case, I conceive require only to be reduced to practice, to enable his pupil to express himself upon every occasion with the same ease which other persons command who have no impediment.—12th Oct. 1824.

No. VI.

Rodney Street, Liverpool, November 5th.

I have the pleasure to state that I have now received the full command of my speech, the 5th day of December, 1824.

TO MR. BROSTER.

No. VII.

Cumberland, December 30th.

It is with inexpressible delight that I am able to state that, after being a short time with Mr. Broster, I have received the very greatest benefit. My case had always been considered hopeless, and I had devoted, some time back, two years to the removal of it, without the slightest benefit.

1825.

THE SECOND YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION.

No. VIII.

Flint, Denbighshire, January 7th, 1825.

I AM happy to state that, from Mr. Broster's instruction, I have obtained the full command of my speech, and sustained a complete removal of my impediment.

No. IX.

Rosemount, Perth, January 31st.

I commenced under Mr. Broster's instructions on Tuesday the 26th January, and, in less than an hour, felt the full command of speech, which has continued from that time to the present, for which I shall always feel most grateful to Mr. Broster.

No. X.

Eton College, April 24th.

I came to Mr. Broster on the second day of April, and depart this day, perfectly cured, and I cannot return thanks enough for his important discovery, as I have derived every advantage from the System. I find myself enabled at present to speak in any society without the slightest impediment, and I leave the house with very great regret; if any hesitation whatever was to come on again, *I know* I have the COMMANDING POWER.

No. XI.

Guernsey, May 20th.

I found the System as efficacious as ever, and have continued to experience its good effects to this day; it is true I have found some few slight difficulties, but I find them rapidly going away; my friends are highly gratified and thankful for what you have, through the divine blessing, done for me, and I need not add how grateful I feel. I have been perfectly burdened with occupation, both public and private, and still have found the System carry me through, both in English and French.

No. XII.

Forfar, Scotland, May 25th.

I came with an impediment and bad articulation, and am going away quite restored.

No. XIII.

Bath, May 26th.

I came to Mr. Broster on Thursday, May 5th, on Friday received my first lecture, after which, I was completely cured, and take my departure fully assured that I shall never again relapse into my old manner.

No. XIV.

Milnthorpe, Westmoreland, May 28th.

Three weeks have elapsed since my son returned, and it is with heartfelt gratitude and pleasure I inform you, that you have completely removed the affliction under which he laboured. I assure you the change in the boy's speech has excited the admiration and astonishment of all our friends, and we his parents can never be sufficiently grateful.

No. XV.

Waterford, Ireland, June 8th.

I feel convinced that by adhering to the instruction of Mr. Broster, and attending to the System, that I am totally free from all impediment.

No. XVI.

Nantwich, Cheshire, July 8th.

On my first arrival at home I felt rather nervous, but not so as to create any stammering; but all this soon wore away, and I am going on very well indeed, and have the utmost confidence in the permanency of my cure. I have not words sufficient to express my gratitude to you for the benefit I have received.

No. XVII.

Guernsey, July 15th.

I shall now proceed to give you a short description of my voyage, by stating that I met with no obstacle whatever, that the fluency of speech continued amazingly well, and that every thing went on like clockwork.

On my landing here I was welcomed by my friends, and others who knew me; they were

astonished at the change of speech, and rejoiced at my recovery.

Last evening I was invited to a party with my friends ; they of course (for curiosity's sake) interrogated me from right to left, in order to make me stammer ; I related to them the particulars of my voyage, the relation of which lasted above twenty minutes ; the System here was more than glorious, I NEVER STAMMERED ! the gentlemen were all amazed and confused ; “ Surely,” said they, “ *it is very astonishing ; you who could hardly utter a word in private*, now are able to plead at the bar!!! Here's encouraging news for me and you!

No. XVIII.

Swansey, Glamorganshire, July 12th.

Having attended Mr. Broster, and being favoured with his instructions, I now enjoy a “ full command over my speech,” which I had not for many years before, and acknowledge my great obligations to him for his kind treatment, and the great benefit I have derived from his instructions, for which I return my sincerest thanks.

No. XIX.

Manchester, July 24th.

After a fortnight spent in Mr. Broster's house, I find myself perfectly cured of the unpleasant impediment in my speech; and I feel confident that I possess the power to prevent any relapse.

No. XX.

Clement's Inn, London, August 3d.

It gives me real satisfaction to testify that I have derived considerable benefit from Mr. Broster in the cure of the impediment I have lately laboured under, and am induced to flatter myself that attention to Mr. Broster's System is *only required* to effect a *perfect, a permanent cure*.

No. XXI.

Gower, Glamorganshire, August 26th.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I arrived here safe. Have had from four to five weeks to prove was my cure real or not, and have the greatest satisfaction (which I have no doubt will be a satisfaction to you also) to say that I have gone through my usual duties for the above-men-

tioned time with almost *perfect* ease and very little fatigue, my visit to Edinburgh was not in vain, but to the purpose.

No. XXII.

Penrith, September 6th.

I hereby declare, that I am fully satisfied with the benefit I have received from Mr. Broster's System, and would not *sell* the *powers of speech* I have acquired from it, for *ten times the sum* I have expended.

No. XXIII.

Westport, Ireland, Oct. 31st.

I heartily congratulate both you and myself on the wonderful change you have effected in my manner of speaking; and return you my sincere thanks for enabling me thus to express myself. My reason for not writing sooner was in order to be fully grounded in your System, and to see whether I should make a blunder in speaking during the time, now three months since I left, which I have *not done* in the *slightest degree*, and confidently assured I am, that your System is effectual in removing impediments of Speech. My

parents and friends are astonished to hear me speak so fluently and so entirely rid of stammering; they are much gratified with my visit to Edinburgh, and I shall not regret it during my life.

No. XXIV.

Holles Street, Dublin, Sept. 6th.

I have derived such benefit from Mr. Broster's instruction as fully equalled my expectation, and that I have no doubt whatever of the efficacy of his System as applicable to my case.

No. XXV.

Ashton, Wiltshire, Oct. 20th.

I came to Mr. Broster the 20th October, and before I had been with him half an hour, I was perfectly cured of a very bad impediment in my speech.

No. XXVI.

Christ Church, Oxford, Dec. 26th.

You must have thought me a sad ungrateful dog not to have sooner written to express my thanks for the great and lasting benefit conferred upon me by your *admirable* and, in my case, every way *effectual* system. But the fact is, I thought it

would be more satisfactory to you, as well as gratifying to myself, if I deferred communicating my goings on till after my return to the country.

If I was regarded as a prodigy in Scotland, I know not what is thought of me here ; for I have now been back a full week, and have talked (as you from sad experience can easily believe) incessantly the whole time, and to a great variety of people, all curious to know the result, and, not a few of them, most maliciously desirous of detecting some lurking impediment in my speech. If such were their wishes, I have gloriously disappointed them, for neither in *reading* or in *speaking* have I as yet made one single *hesitation*. Indeed I almost feel as if it were a moral impossibility I ever should again.

1826.

THE THIRD YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION.

No. XXVII.

Oxford, Jan. 24th, 1826.

I have been here since Saturday, and have visited the different authorities, who are all astonished at the wonderful cure by you effected. Before leaving Yorkshire, I read for three successive Sundays in Church both the lessons, before a whole congregation, without any the slightest impediment. I shall now be ordained as speedily as possible. I wrote off to all friends to record my triumph and *yours*.

No. XXVIII.

Penrith, Jan. 30.

His complete success continues to furnish subject for daily congratulation and daily wonder to his friends in the north. You may give entire

credit to my report, as I was so sceptical on the subject as to reason very strongly on the folly of indulging hope : you had so often told me the impediment was from his cradle, that I feared it was only aggravating his regrets at labouring under a defect which kept all his talents in the shade, and rendered every effort at usefulness a trial both of his fortitude and temper. You may suppose how completely all this has passed away, when I can bear to describe it in the most painful colours. ——— now speaks slowly and distinctly in a very pleasant tone of voice ; to me it is absolute music, for I hear him better than any one else, and we are quite convinced that the System is a real tangible good, and always available ; so that if no length of practice were to make it habitual, but always to require an effort of memory, still his situation is no worse than that of a near-sighted person, who is obliged to apply the glass to his eye before looking at any object.

No. XXIX.

Oxford, Feb. 2.

This morning added greatly to your well-earned fame, by my reading the whole lesson before a crowded congregation in the cathedral,

without *the slightest faulter*, from beginning to end, but, on the contrary, with increased powers and clearness of articulation. I am going to —, where I shall doubtless meet many who will be desirous to hear something more of you, who have caused much sensation here, for they are now no longer sceptical on the subject.

No. XXX.

Oxford, Feb. 20.

I read again in chapel yesterday morning that long first lesson, without the slightest failure. The professor asserts that I read better than all the others; and I have had many applications from people here to know what your terms are for instructions in reading the Liturgy, they are so pleased with my manner of reading, which I attribute wholly and solely to your tuition. I am requested, also, to ask, what you demand for giving instructions to clergymen afflicted with a weak voice and disordered lungs.

No. XXXI.

Teddington, Middlesex, Feb. 18.

I cannot find terms sufficiently strong to express my thankfulness and gratitude towards

you for having, in less than three weeks, completely cured me of an unfortunate impediment in my speech, and enabled me to speak with ease and fluency. I have now been at home a week, during which time I have read aloud to my family without the slightest hesitation; in short, I feel confident that I shall very soon quite forget I ever had an impediment;—of one thing I am quite certain, that if ever I do hesitate again, it must be my own fault, and that even in the event of such a thing happening as a return of my former malady, I am possessed of a talisman with which I can conquer it instantly.

I remain, dear Sir, with sentiments of the greatest esteem and gratitude yours, &c.

No. XXXII.

Trinity College, Cambridge, Feb. 28.

You will, perhaps before this time, have begun to think me rather tardy in writing to you, but I thought it would be, upon the whole, more satisfactory to defer till I could speak of my manner of going on at ——, as well as at ——. My experience at both places has been very favourable, and I think that I may fully expect it to

continue so. I speak most commonly with perfect ease and fluency; I may occasionally boggle for a moment, but it very rarely amounts to a difficulty worth mentioning. Haste and carelessness may sometimes make me fail in some degree, but I am so confident in my power of speaking, that if I were called on to address any audience on any subject in public or private, whatever other doubts I might have, I should not feel any fear of hesitation; all my friends are astonished at finding me so far recovered.

No. XXXIII.

Cheltenham, Feb. 26.

I am happy to inform you that I continue to speak very fluently, and I cannot thank you sufficiently for the benefit I received during my short stay at your residence.

No. XXXIV.

Bath, March 10th.

My son returned here last Monday. It affords me considerable satisfaction to find that his speech is much improved; and I believe that if he continues to follow your directions he will entirely surmount the impediment. You have certainly

put him into a superior method of managing his voice; all that seems to be required is perseverance, till habit renders that easy which now, from want of sufficient practice, is difficult.

No. XXXV.

Cheltenham, March 14th.

I have very often thought of writing to thank you for the marvellous cure you effected in the speech of my son. I was abroad with some of my family when he, with two of his brothers from school, joined us at Brussels; I was very much pleased to find him able to read and converse.

I persuaded him to make the trial, though he had little hope of success, having before been under the care of two other gentlemen, who were certainly of use for a short time, but nothing permanent till he came to you.

No. XXXVI.

Chertsey, March 22d.

I have not written to you before, because I wished to be at home some few days before I did so. I certainly derived the greatest benefit during the month I had the pleasure of being with you,

much more so than I ever thought I should do: for, until I became convinced of the efficacy of the System, I was a great unbeliever; since my return home I have been congratulated by many of my friends on the improvement that has taken place in my speech.

No. XXXVII.

Guernsey, April 14th.

I —— have much pleasure in declaring by this present, my firm conviction of the efficacy of Mr. Broster's System in effectually removing a very distressing impediment of speech under which I laboured from my youth. I have remained with Mr. Broster one month, more for the sake of practising the System than from necessity, having found relief immediately after the first lecture.

No. XXXVIII.

Cambridge, July 6th.

I have much already to thank you for; and I bless God that I have been able to profit by your kind instructions.

No. XXXIX.

Canterbury, August 1st.

Accept, my dear Sir, my most cordial and grateful thanks for the very great benefit which I received from you, and for the great kindness which I experienced during my stay in your house.

No. XL.

Devizes, August 15th.

I have the pleasure of informing you that the impediment in my speech is removed, and I am confident that it depends wholly on my attention to your rules to make it complete. My friends are perfectly satisfied with the improvement, and unite with me in offering their best thanks to you for your kindness and attention, during the short time (a fortnight) I was under your care.

39, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

No. XLI.

London, Monday, July, 1826.

SIR, I beg leave to offer the following statement:

I went to Mr. Broster—before I had been under

his instructions fifteen minutes, I had full command over my speech to speak to four strange gentlemen, pupils in the house; though my speech was so bad, before I went to Mr. Broster, that I was almost dumb, I was generally ten minutes, sometimes more, with great pain, before I could get a word out to any body, to strangers in particular. I called on Mr. Broster the Friday evening before I came under his instruction; Mr. W., of Sloane-street, was with Mr. Broster. He saw that I was almost dumb. He said, he never saw such a distressing case in his life, as to hear me attempt to speak. The Friday following I was able, by the blessing of God, to deliver a message to Mr. W. as distinct as any body. When I went home to my friends they were struck with astonishment to hear me talk so well; observing he had made the dumb to speak. My mother thanked the Lord for the blessing through the means of Mr. Broster's System.

Sir, I return my humble and most grateful thanks to you, and remain evermore your grateful servant.

No. XLII.

Corfe Castle.

Words could not convey my feelings of praise and gratitude for the almost instantaneous recovery of my speech, under the influence of Mr. Broster's System. I came on Monday, the 21st day of August—this day, Thursday, declare my intention of leaving on Saturday next, and my former impression of stammering appears like a dream. I shall feel much gratified in answering any application Mr. Broster may choose to make to me.

J. W.

No. XLIII.

Worksop.

I came on Tuesday, the 22d of August, the day after Mr. — of Corfe Castle; we both leave on Saturday next, after six days' residence, with perfect full power of speech; nor could any event deprive us of it, but loss of memory or reason:—whilst I retain these two powers I shall regard Mr. Broster and his Discovery with delight and gratitude. Any reference made to me will afford me pleasure in answering.

F. B.

XLIV.

Dublin, August 24th.

I have great pleasure in communicating the satisfaction and gratification I feel for the benefit afforded my son during the short period he was under your extraordinary and powerful scientific skill. His impediment is quite removed, he seems to have a “magic wand” at his command, to keep aloof old habits—and his articulation and utterance, in general, is daily improving.

My son constantly expresses himself with the greatest affection and regard for your kind good nature, and polite attention he experienced, while in your house, from Miss Broster and yourself—and joins me in best and sincere regards.

No. XLV.

London, August 25th.

I have peculiar pleasure in offering you my warmest acknowledgments for the essential benefit I have derived by your most admirable System.

The effectual removal of the distressing impediment of speech I suffered from, by your advice, has produced a sense of gratitude, which I do not hesitate to avow could not possibly be heightened.

The important blessing of the power of distinct articulation can but be appreciated by those who have felt its want: I, therefore, (with others who have derived the happy advantage of your scientific knowledge,) am best able to afford you the tribute of praise your researches in accomplishing this noble science so justly entitle you to.

I beg of you farther to accept my heartfelt wishes not only for your happiness and prosperity, but that the incalculable benefits you are enabled to afford such a numerous portion of mankind may be generally made known.

No. XLVI.

Ridgeway, Sept. 8th.

It would be ungrateful were I not to express how much I feel indebted to yourself and sister, for the kind attention my daughter received during

her residence with you, and also to express my thankfulness that you have been the means of removing the greatest drawback to her present happiness.

Those only can appreciate the blessing the power of speech has been to ———, who witnessed the misery she experienced when obliged to be in the society of strangers, and I may add even with her own immediate family; indeed, latterly, she avoided as much as possible all intercourse with society, and hastily quitted the room on company being announced; and knowing the pain she felt when addressed, as much as possible I answered for her, which produced an air of reserve and frigidity very inimical to her natural character.

The facility with which she is now enabled to read is *wonderful*, for it is several years since she could, with much difficulty, read aloud, and for the last year or two it was altogether abandoned. This dispensation has very much retarded the progress of her education, particularly in attaining the languages. Thank God! by your admirable System every obstacle is now removed,

and she has resumed her long-neglected studies with considerable zest.

I shall consider it my duty to name the good you have bestowed upon my child far and near, and shall be happy to answer any inquiries, to the perfect satisfaction of those who may, from the failure of others, be prejudiced to the trial of the Brosterian System.

No. XLVII.

Edinburgh, Sept. 9th.

Though I have not written to, I have *not forgotten*, you; I have been here from the 1st of June, and am Junior Assistant at St. — Church; I have found your system most complete and unobjectionable; for seven Sundays I had the whole duty of the church on my shoulders, prayers and sermons both morning and evening, and in no one instance did I feel “the slightest degree oppressed.”

You may imagine my sensations in doing duty at ———, which I have twice since my sojourn here: how strongly did it recall to my remembrance

the happy hours I passed there with you; and whatever popularity as a preacher I at present possess, (and am given to understand that they are well pleased with me,) I attribute wholly and solely to the tuition I received from you, and I should be wanting in gratitude if I did not express it in this marked manner.

Your fame (if I may judge from the daily applications made to me) must be increasing; and on my return to England next year I shall, with pleasure, renew an intimacy with one from whom I have gained *so much* benefit, and such real solid advantages. I see your old pupil, Lady ———, occasionally; she is very kind to me, and, I think, speaks and reads as well as any person I ever heard in my life.

I have done all I could, my dear Mr. Broster, both *here* and (through my *extensive* circle of relations and friends) *elsewhere*, to establish your well-earned reputation.

I have no *false pride* or *ridiculous shame* about me; I *every where* confess the infirmity I laboured under, and who it was who relieved me from it.

No. XLVIII.

Ridgeway, Sept. 9th.

A fortnight having elapsed since I left your house, I consider “ my Brosterian abilities ” have had a fair trial; and as I know you will be anxious to hear how I am playing my *new* part in this great theatre, it is with much pleasure that I inform you, I am doing so to the satisfaction of all my friends; amidst a multitude of eyes and ears, that have been all attention to elicit or discover some little traces of my impediment, I have enlisted among the regular talkers, and through the assistance of your forces, after every engagement, came off bearing the banner of victory!

It were in vain to attempt expressing the joy and thankfulness I feel at the recovery of my speech; you may suppose I am not insensible to the benefit which you have been the instrument (in the hands of God) of bestowing on me, when I tell you that by it you have removed the only, though great, obstacle to my earthly happiness; view it in this light, and you can then form an idea of the service you have done me, and con-

sequently what a *deep sense* of gratitude such a *service* must ever inspire.

No. XLIX.

Sept. 10th.

I hear much of Mr. ———'s eloquence, and Lady ———'s impediment, although sometimes observed, is even then so slight, as to be called rather an ornament to her than otherwise.

No. L.

Iron Acton, Sept. 29th.

We had fine weather for our journey and got safe home, and am happy to tell you I am going on very well, endeavouring strictly to adhere to your System.

Since our return we have had a great many visitors, all of whom express their surprise at the distinctness of my utterance; and I think the result of my recovery of my speech will bring a number of pupils to you, with whom, I hope, (indeed I am sure of it,) you will be equally successful as with me.

And now, Sir, let me offer you my thanks for the privilege I enjoy, in being able to speak with distinctness and fluency; and be assured, I shall never be insensible of the kind attention I received from you and your family, nor of the inestimable benefit I derived from my visit.

Believe me, my dear Sir, very sincerely your obliged, &c.

1827.

THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION.

No. LI.

St. — College, Cambridge, Jan. 26th, 1827.

It is a difficult task to express, in adequate terms, my obligation to you for the removal of the impediment under which I have been labouring so severely, ever since I can remember. Removal I may say, with propriety; as, if I follow your admirable system, it is, I am convinced, impossible for me to stammer.

To the person afflicted with that worst of evils, hesitation, every new face seems to bring a terror; and the thought that where the desire to speak exists, the power is withheld, is truly distressing. Now, your System gives that confidence, that *power* which is wanting, and is as effective as

Oberon's wand, though not partaking of its magical influence. One of my most intimate friends is perfectly astonished at my reading being free from hesitation; and I shall certainly now, when it is my turn, read in the College chapel, which, before, I had determined never to do.

I have mentioned to my tutor the circumstance of my having been with you, to whom also I expressed myself highly satisfied with your plan, as being admirably effectual. To your kindness to me on every occasion, during my residence under your roof, I shall always be a most grateful witness.

It were needless to enter into a lengthened panegyric on your method of cure, but I feel it imperatively incumbent on me strongly to recommend any one who stammers, or who even is *defective in speaking in any way*, to put himself under your guidance, and he will most assuredly find the greatest benefit, kindness, and hospitality he can desire; he will feel that power within himself which will enable him to rouse the energies with which Nature has endowed him, and instead of being afraid of hearing the sound of

his own voice, he will exert it first, in sincerely expressing to you his heartfelt thanks. With compliments, &c.

No. LII.

Strand, February 4th.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging the very gratifying improvement which my son has derived from your instruction, and I trust he will continue steadily to adopt those principles which have been communicated to him, and which appear to be calculated effectually to remove all the impediment under which he laboured.

I have the honour to remain, dear Sir, your most obliged and faithful servant.

No. LIII.

Bath, March 15th.

I feel convinced, by care and attention, he may surmount the impediment of his speech, both in reading and conversing. But I am not certain that it will be entirely removed; I fear it may oc-

casionaly return, in a small degree, after fatigue, or any circumstance that debilitates the body, and renders the exercise of the organs of speech more difficult. Much must depend upon his own care and attention; you have put him in the right way.

No. LIV.

Hampstead, March 15th.

I shall hope to see you to-morrow again, but I fear that must be the last lecture that I can have the benefit of for the present, I am compelled to go to my duty at ——— next week.

The advantage derived from my visits to you I shall ever, I trust, be deeply grateful for; indeed, the additional comfort that will be felt by me, through your means, during almost every hour of my future life, must be constantly bringing before me pleasing recollections of you.

I cannot venture to believe that the testimony of so humble an individual as I am, can at all forward the progress of a System so beneficial to mankind in general, and so peculiarly useful to

my own profession,* but I cannot help saying, that should such testimony ever be desired by you, it may, of course, be required in the amplest manner.

Believe me to be, dear Sir, very respectfully
yours.

No. LV.

Tunbridge, March 25th.

It is with sincere pleasure that I comply with your request, my dear boy, that I would write to you a few days after his return to us. I rejoice to be able to assure you, that by his persevering attention to your System he appears to be perfectly restored to the right use of speech; so that I have observed nothing like hesitation, even in those of his lessons, which used to try him the most.

I cannot conclude without taking this opportunity of congratulating you on the discovery of a system of instruction so admirably simple, and

* The Church.

yet so wonderfully effectual; and expressing my thankfulness to God for the benefit derived from it by my dear brothers and sisters.*

No. LVI.

Nettleroad, March 25th.

I embrace the first opportunity of writing, to express my sincere thanks for the great benefit which I have received from you during my stay at your house; and I hope I shall ever be grateful to you for it.

I have not even once felt any inclination to stammer since I left you, and I trust that I have now quite got into your System.

Accept and present my kind regards to your family, and believe me to remain, yours, most gratefully.

No. LVII.

May 29th.

I was anxious to make the stage my profession,

* Two brothers and two sisters of the same family; which was the *second* instance that occurred during Mr. B.'s practice.

but an inveterate LISP* prevented me. At the recommendation of an eminent Professor I applied to Mr. Broster : after a few lessons, to the astonishment of myself and friends, the lisp was entirely removed, and I am almost unconscious at present that I ever had such an impediment.

I shall, in gratitude, attend to any inquiries you may please to refer to me.

Miss ———,
at, &c.

No. LVIII.

Reading, June 14th.

I cannot allow my son to return to town without expressing my warmest acknowledgments and very best thanks to you for the kind and friendly interest you have taken in his concerns, and for the zeal and earnestness you have shewn in forwarding the great object of his wishes. Without

* Impediment in speech frequently proceeds from a lisp, or from a more inveterate cause, denominated in several counties a provincial *burr*, as *Northumberland*, &c. where it more commonly occurs; and the letters *r*, *l*, and others, from this defect, become inarticulate even without a stammering. Mr. Broster can give many references of complete removal on this head.

your interference I am convinced he would have failed in his attempt.

I have only again to express my great obligations to you, and to assure you that I shall be most happy to make my personal acknowledgement to you.

I am, my dear Sir, your sincere and obliged—

No. LIX.

Plymouth, June 21st.

I should not be doing justice to you, or my own feelings, were I any longer to delay giving testimony to the good effects I have derived from your instruction, in obviating and correcting my impediment of speech. The relief I experience from your method is in general all I can either expect or wish; and if there are occasions in which it is not so, I feel the defect lies with me, and not in the System, which, if fully put in practice, must, at all times, prove an antidote to stammering.

I hope, my dear Sir, you will think my rea-

sons in allowing thus much time to elapse before “ reporting progress ” well founded ; that time has been amply sufficient for all that was temporary in your System and instructions to subside, and for all that was abiding to take effect. I can only add, that the result has equalled my own utmost expectations ; the particulars I have detailed must stand instead of acknowledgments ; they show what I owe to your means and instrumentality, and which I hope you will give me credit for estimating with proper feeling.

Trusting that on my return from abroad I may find you in the enjoyment of health and every comfort, and beg you to believe me, very faithfully and sincerely, yours, &c.

No. LX.

London, June 17th, 1827.

In addition to the pleasure, which I have expressed, from our own observations of my son’s improvement, I have great satisfaction in giving you an extract from a letter which I have received from the Head Master.

“ The improvement alluded to in your letter, has already shown itself.

“ It was your son's lot to read (in chapel) the second lesson in the afternoon service of Sunday, and he acquitted himself admirably. Those who knew him not, and were ignorant of his impediment, asked the name of the boy who had read so well.”

I am sure this report will gratify you, and I discharge an agreeable duty in communicating it to you.

I remain,

my dear Sir,

your very faithful Servant.

No. LXI.

Fladong's Hotel.

I have refrained from writing to you, expecting to have seen you some time ago, but I was detained longer in the country than I expected. I am happy to say I have continued to speak perfectly well, and, with a little practice and pains, I

have no fear of a relapse; and believe me to remain, very sincere, and gratefully, yours.

No. LXII.

To MISS B.

Norfolk, June 25th.

I have very great pleasure in complying with your request of hearing from me as soon as I reached home. I every hour feel the necessity of putting the System in requisition, and hardly need promise to practise it both in speaking and reading every day. All that have heard me speak are delighted with the progress I have made, and are continually congratulating me upon my newly-acquired blessing. Mr. ——— had yesterday (Whit Monday) an opportunity of reading in church, where he read the service of the day, in your System, and in a manner and with a strength of voice which astonished his friends.

I doubt I shall tire your patience by too long an account of our proceedings and improvements, but I feel you are interested in our welfare, and I am sure it will gratify Mr. Broster to know the happy effects of his most important discovery.

Remember us most kindly and cordially to every one of our fellow pupils, and tell them, the knowledge of their perfect cure will give us the greatest pleasure.

No. LXIII.

Piccadilly, June 30th.

Although I am rather limited to time, I must not omit telling you, all here seem delighted to see me, and congratulate me most warmly on the complete recovery of my speech. Mr. —— most particularly: it may seem like egotism on my part, but I know I speak delightfully with the greatest ease.

No. LXIV.

Wells, July 1.

I must be content to hold a small portion in your memory; but, never mind, let me but be assured you are as happy as your general philanthropy and kind feeling deserve, and if for a period you are the contrary in mind or body, I hope you can call to mind, and feel satisfaction from the assurance, that with myself, as indeed

with all your pupils, you must stand in the highest estimation, respect, and regard.

In anticipation that you will allow me the satisfaction of seeing your pretensions so justly supported, and the public benefited, by the disclosure of my Case, among others of your perfect success, I subjoin the following concise particulars:—

I came to you with an impediment of speech, which from infancy was increasing to such point, that at last I would frequently give up the attempt to express my meaning. After staying with you for a week, I could, and did, under every interview with my friends, as also in reading “crabbed prose,” command a flow of speech, regular, uninterrupted, and most easy; also, apparently, unshackled by rule or method.

When your kind wish for my security had prolonged my stay for a month, (and what is a month to throw off a habit of so many years standing?) I found I was losing even the inclination towards, and indeed almost the remembrance of, my former stammering; and if I have since had a regret, it

is that, seldom needing your System, as a guard against, or cure for impediment, I am forgetful of, and do let slip, the advantages which it holds out to the beauty of utterance and speech generally. I am sure I do not, under any circumstances, (my coming down here was a famous trial,) stick at six words in the course of the day; and when I do, what is it? but as the confident pause of the confident hunter before he rises to the fence. I literally would not wish to lose this occasional gentle hint; for I invariably speak better, that is, more in your System, after the check. I amuse myself much observing how few people do speak rightly. I allude not to graces, but to facility, clearness, and power of speech. The metamorphose you effected when you have instructed clergymen shows this. No speaker, bad in any way, _can despair under your instructions. You have, my good Sir, an immensity to do besides with us stammerers; although I know you very considerately give us poor fellows a prior claim.

You, I trust, dear Sir, will believe me always,
very faithfully, yours.

No. LXV.

July 21.

I came to you last Monday was a week; I am leaving you this day. After the first hour I became master of my speech, practice has daily strengthened my power, and have no doubt I shall be soon so established in the Art, that even that will be unnecessary with me, as I know it has been with Mr. B——, a friend of mine, who was a pupil of yours.

Should you have occasion to refer to me, my inclination and gratitude will make me proud to pay attention thereto.

Your most, &c. &c.

No. LXIV.

July 21, 1827.

DEAR SIR,—Not only out of gratitude to you, but as a duty which in my opinion I owe to the public, or I should say to that part of the community who are afflicted with an impediment in their speech, I beg leave to transmit a few lines to

you, and shall feel honoured by your publishing them in the next edition of your Progress.

I came under the care of Mr. Broster in the month of May, with so bad an impediment in my speech that my most intimate friends could scarcely understand a word I attempted to say, accompanied with a disagreeable movement of my countenance. After I had got the first lecture from Mr. B——, I perceived that if I followed his instructions I could not only speak without stammering, but free from all grimaces. Haste and carelessness checked me in the rapid progress I could have made, and only for a few minutes after the lecture; I spoke as unpleasantly as usual for the course of some time; but at length was so much annoyed by pupils going away quite cured, who had come under Mr. B.'s care some time after me, that I devoted the necessary attention to the System, and in less than a fortnight generally spoke without the least hesitation. I may still by chance make a boggle, but by using Mr. B.'s System have a never-failing remedy at hand.

Yours, &c.

No. LXII.

Worcester, August 16th, 1827.

MY DEAR SIR,

You kindly wished to know of my progress: I have been unwilling, however, to write, until I had most *completely* given your system a *full* trial; I have now done so. I have been here since July 1st (inclusive), and have preached in one of the largest churches, and a church complained of as one very unfavourable for the voice. You will recollect, also, that I was far from remarkable for the strength of either my vocal or general bodily powers.

The result of this (as it may be justly termed) severe experiment has been most gratifying, and even perfectly astonishing to myself. I go through my duties with ease, and have been assured by several persons, of *their own accord*, that I am well

and distinctly heard in every part of the church. On Sunday, I had the whole duty on myself—Prayers—Sermon—and Sacrament—and, at its conclusion was scarcely conscious of fatigue.

I feel that I need not add another word, except indeed to say, how warmly and sincerely grateful I am to you for putting me in possession of a faculty of such inestimable value.

Should you be passing through Worcester, you will not, I trust, deny me the satisfaction of offering such attentions as may be in my power.

I remain,

my dear Sir,

with great respect,

Your's &c.

No. LXIII.

East Peckham, July 26, 1827.

SIR,—Considering it a duty I owe to the public in general, and to you in particular, to add my testimony to the numbers that have already been given, shall, as far as I am able, state the case.

I came to Mr. Broster, troubled with an impediment of speech, which, though not of the most violent kind, was sufficient to make me dumb before strangers, but from following the System of Instruction recommended by Mr. B., find I am able to speak without the least difficulty. After having spoken imperfectly for twenty years, no person can think five weeks a long time in learning to speak fluently, which is the time I have spent under Mr. Broster's roof.

As Mr. Broster's System is founded on the principles of Nature, I would recommend those parents, whose children stammer, to lose no time, for it is a wrong idea, that they will get over it, as they grow up; on the contrary, it grows with our growth, and strengthens with our strength: there-

fore I think, as soon as they can read, they are fit subjects for Mr. B.'s instruction. They may then pursue their studies without interruption; and will escape numberless miseries and disadvantages, which are more easily conceived than described.

No. LXVIII.

July 26th.

SIR,—When at sea, often have I sighed over the following beautiful expressive passage in Young; and, with thrilling sensations of ‘hopeless despair,’ applied them to my own case.

I have, since my restoration under your System, dwelt upon them with ‘heartfelt thankfulness and exquisite delight;’ and really think, if introduced into your next report, would convey the same ‘pleasurable sensations’ to all your pupils.



ON THE VALUE OF SPEECH.

Hast thou no friend to set thy mind abroad ?
Good sense will stagnate : thoughts shut up want air,
And spoil, like bales unopened to the sun.
Had thought been all, sweet speech had been denied ;
Speech, thought's canal ! speech, thought's criterion
too !

Thought in the mine, may come forth gold or dross ;
When coined in words, we know its real worth.
If sterling, store it for thy future use ;
'Twill buy thee benefit : perhaps renown.
Thought, too, deliver'd, is the more possess'd :
Teaching, we learn ; and, giving, we retain
The births of intellect ; when dumb, forgot.
Speech ventilates our intellectual fire ;
Speech burnishes our mental magazine ;
Brightens, for ornament ; and whets, for use.
What numbers, sheathed in erudition, lie,
Plunged to the hilts in venerable tomes,
And rusted in, who might have borne an edge,

And play'd a sprightly beam, if born to speech ;
If born bless'd heirs of half their mother's tongue !
'Tis thought's exchange ; which, like the alternate
push

Of waves conflicting, breaks the learned scum,
And defecates the student's standing pool.

YOUNG'S NIGHT THOUGHTS.

*What numbers, froze in icy stamm'ring, pine
To give to erudite and well turn'd thoughts
Th' efficient force of all convincing speech ;
An'd by th' impatient sneers of gaping Scorn !
When one firm word would hurl her from her seat,
Could Wisdom thaw her adamantine chains.*

ANON.

All Communications are to be addressed to MR. BROSTER,
41, Cadogan Place, London.

This Work may be had of

MESSRS. LONGMAN & Co., Paternoster Row;

MR. CAWTHORN, 24, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross;

MR. BLACKWOOD, Edinburgh;

MR. MILLIKEN, Grafton Street, Dublin;

M. GALIGNANI, Paris; where the French edition, published in
Paris, may also be had, as likewise references to pupils re-
siding in that capital.

